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The Kenyon Collegian

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College tightens restrictions week before break, four test positive

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STAFF WRITER

The College has received four positive COVID-19 tests in less than a week. Three of the new positive tests are students, who are now in isolation, and one is an employee. The College has received 154 test results in the past week, and 10 students are in quarantine after Knox Public Health (KPH) traced the close contacts of the positive students.

After one positive student test came back Friday night, President Sean Decatur sent out a News Bulletin on Saturday announcing that the campus would once again shift to a moderate level of alert. The quiet period will last through Nov. 25, when students leave for the semester.

The Nov. 12 wastewater sample also showed that the virus level in Gambier has increased four-fold. According to Professor of Biology Joan Slonczewski, who chairs the Wastewater Testing subcommittee of the Public Health Working Group, this indicates that Gambier will continue to see positive tests.

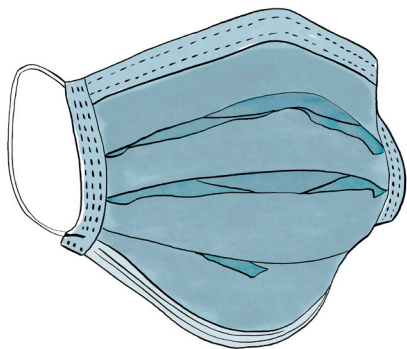
As in the previous two quiet periods, students cannot use common facilities such as the Lowry Center and study lounges, eat inside Peirce Dining Hall or have guests in their residences. In-person gatherings are prohibited as well.

"I recognize that these enhanced restrictions are not easy and that it is especially disappointing to end our residential semester in this way," Decatur wrote

in the email. "But we believe they are a necessary precaution to keep our community — on campus, in Knox County, and in all the places our students will be returning to — as healthy as possible."

Because of this uptick in cases, and to ensure flexibility in travel plans, Decatur sent out another News Bulletin Wednesday announcing that classes would be fully remote on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

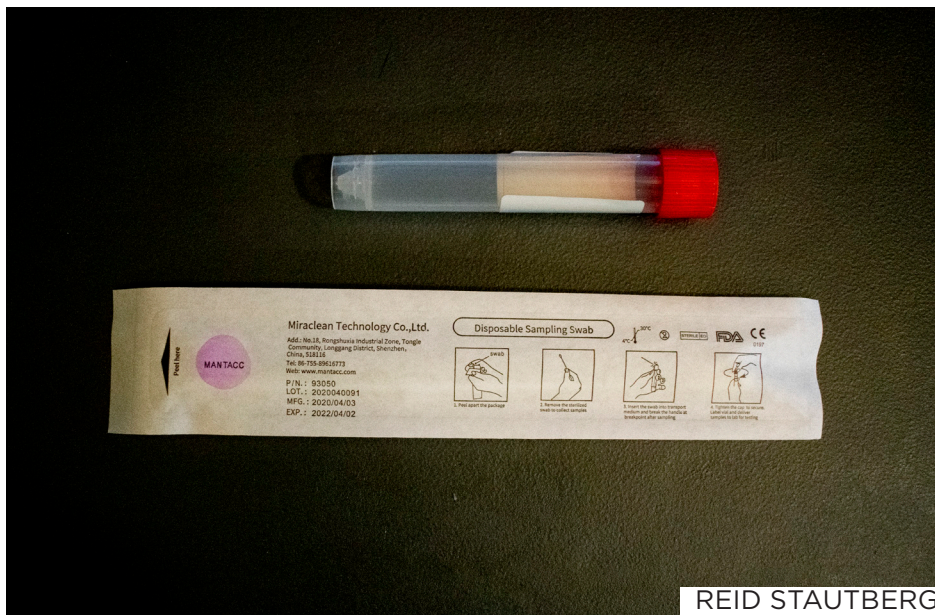
This comes as COVID-19 cases continue to rise rapidly, both in Ohio and across the nation. Knox County alone has reported 184 new cases over the past two weeks, prompting the county to shift to a High Incidence alert status on Thursday. In addition, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced on Tuesday a new statewide curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., starting this Thursday, which will last



ALEX GILKEY

for three weeks.

According to Smith, the College and KPH agreed to provide the quarantined students with tests on their 10th day



REID STAUTBERG

of quarantine, though they will be required to remain in quarantine for two weeks regardless of their test results.

Additionally, Smith said that students who have tested positive may leave campus for the break and complete their isolation at home, so long as they travel by a private vehicle, noting that public transportation is strictly prohibited for those who have tested positive or for close contacts in quarantine.

According to Vice President for Student Affairs Meredith Harper Bonham '92, students in quarantine or isolation who intend to travel home by private vehicle must notify KPH, who will then contact the public health authority in the students' home districts so that they can track the cases.

Pre-departure testing will continue as scheduled through Nov. 20 to ensure that all students are tested for a final time before departing from campus. Smith said that students requiring a time-sensitive test due to their state's travel restrictions could purchase one out of pocket from the Cox Health and Counseling Center.

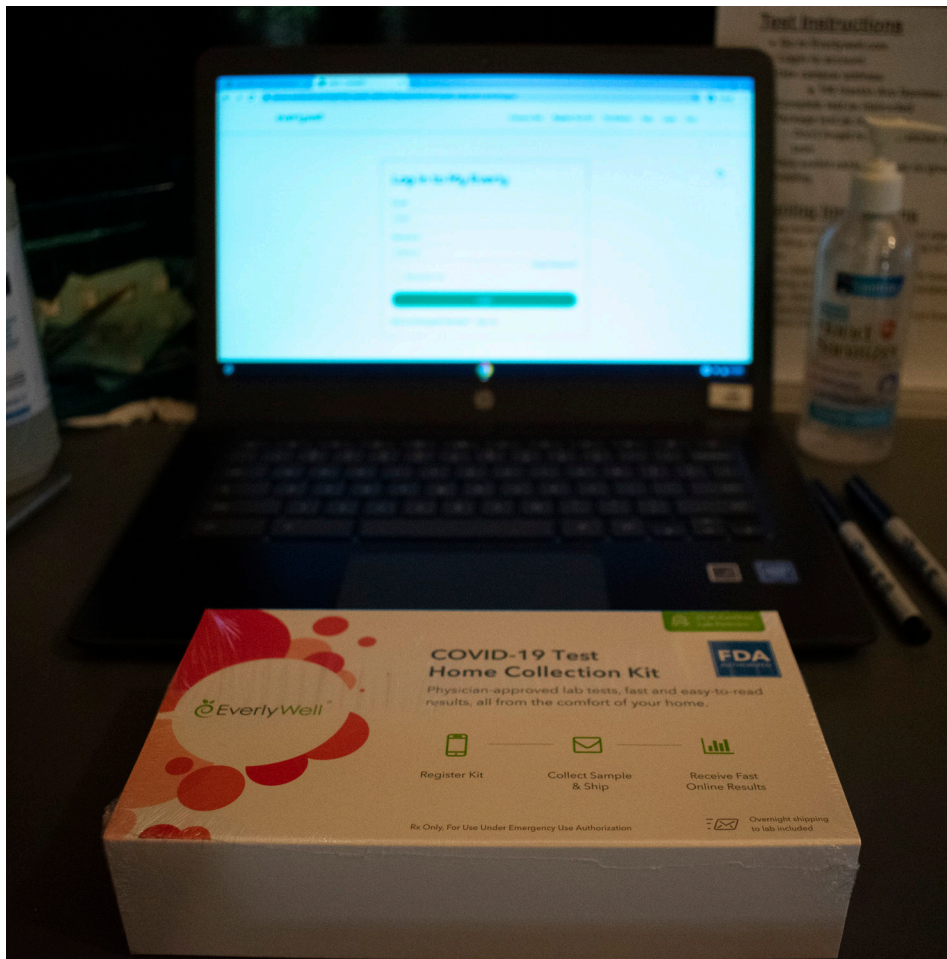
Initially, Smith said in an email to the student body on Nov. 1 that students

remaining on campus over winter break would have to pay \$100 per kit to receive a COVID-19 test from the Health Center. However, after discussing a proposal with Student Council Vice President for Student Life Ubongabasi Asuquo '23, Smith has revised this policy: Students in residence over winter break will be tested once a month, free of charge.

Bonham also mentioned that those who remain on campus will be moved into the North Campus Apartments, in order for the College to maximize its wastewater testing results. If the wastewater levels show any "significant increases" in viral presence, students in residence may be tested more frequently during the break, according to Smith.

In a final email update to on-campus students, Bonham praised their conduct, crediting what she said was a successful semester to students' adherence to College safety policies. "The success that we as a College have enjoyed is due in large part to your efforts," Bonham wrote.

More information and ongoing updates about COVID-19 can be found on the the Kenyon College COVID-19 Dashboard, which is updated daily.



Students were tested prior to Thanksgiving break. | REID STAUTBERG

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Weekend power outage hamstrings on-campus operations

SPENCER HIRSCH
STAFF WRITER

A severe thunderstorm caused a lengthy power outage across campus this past Sunday — a situation that proved difficult because of the number of remote classes and the recent quiet period announced the day before.

Students could not access the internet for several hours that afternoon and, due to the lack of daylight, Peirce Dining Hall only offered dinner service from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., leading to long lines that stretched through the atrium.

The power went out at roughly 1 p.m. on Sunday in Gambier and parts of Mount Vernon as high winds downed trees and damaged power lines. According to Campus Safety Director and Chair of the Kenyon Emergency Preparedness Team (KEPT) Michael Sweazey, a main power line in Mount Vernon that provides electricity to both the Village and campus was also damaged in the storm.

As American Electric Power (AEP) worked throughout the day to repair downed power lines and College staff addressed issues specific to campus, students received text and email updates about the changing conditions.

According to Sweazey, KEPT convened virtually during the outage in order to coordinate the College's response, especially with regard to the recently imposed quiet period restrictions. KEPT organized the response of several divisions to ensure public safety was not compromised during the outage. "At the center of all these action plans was how [our] response could accommodate social distancing," Sweazey said. "There was never any serious safety concern in this particular outage."

However, students were concerned about the shortened dinner time on Sunday. At 3:19 p.m., the College notified students that the Peirce servery

would be open from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Less than 10 minutes later, the College sent a revised update about dinner service: It would instead run from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. During this one-hour window, a large number of students convened in the building, making it difficult for them to maintain social distancing in lines that stretched all the way back towards the main entrance.

According to Manager of Business Services Fred Linger, Peirce staff served 550 students in that hour. Linger said that Peirce staff opted for an hourlong window because of previous outage experiences. They had found that, once daylight diminished, cleaning and closing would become difficult. However, even with the long lines, staff knew they had to feed as many students as possible. "They were proud to take care of so many, so fast," said Linger.

With no internet access or ability to charge devices, students inevitably faced challenges completing schoolwork on Sunday. Vice President for Student Affairs Meredith Harper Bonham '92 said the College notified faculty of the outage, and asked them to extend "some additional grace" to students for assignments due during that time. The Kenyon Bookstore, which has its own generator, also remained open for students who needed to charge their devices, as is their custom during a power outage.

Before AEP restored power around 7:30 p.m., students found ways of mitigating the stress of the situation. Delaney Gallagher '23 took comfort in the small break from academics. "I couldn't use my phone or computer, but it was nice to disconnect for a bit and watch a movie my roommate had downloaded on her laptop," she said. Others took advantage of the time to socialize in person. "I met up with some friends and listened to music and ordered food," said Jonathan Pastor '23. "Overall, I think [the outage] was handled in an efficient way."



The O'Connor House ramp was damaged on Sunday. | REID STAUTBERG



The power outage forced AVI to shorten its dinner hours. | REID STAUTBERG

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K-SWOC meets with Board of Trustees, finds few answers

ADAM MARGOLIS
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 12, members of the Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee (K-SWOC) steering committee met with members of senior staff and the Board of Trustees to further discuss their request for recognition as a union. Members of K-SWOC described the meeting as anticlimactic.

"We went into this meeting trying to establish a dialogue. However, we were stonewalled multiple times," said Graham Ball '21, a member of K-SWOC's steering committee.

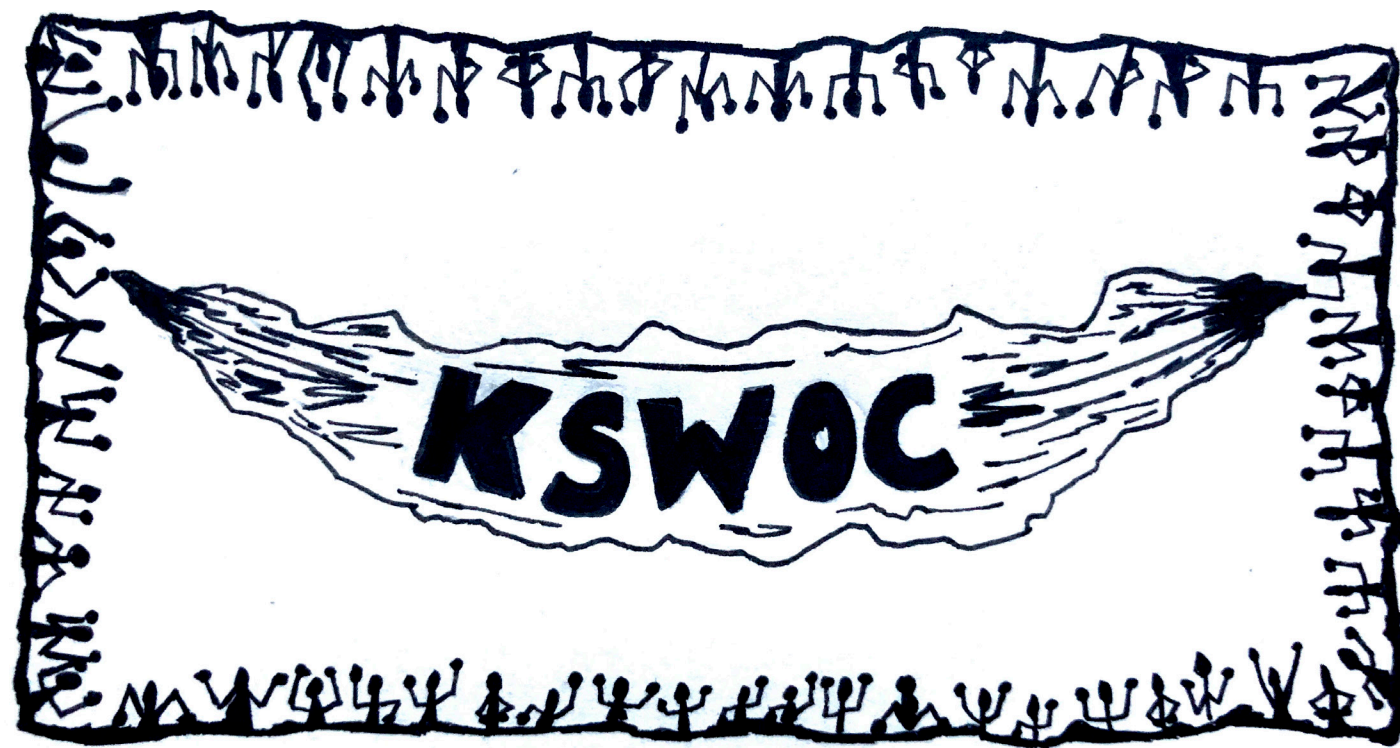
The closed meeting, which was called in order for K-SWOC members to present more information about the group's goals, comes after months of organizing and campaigning from the group. K-SWOC submitted their first formal petition for recognition at the end of August and a second at the beginning of September. They subsequently met with the Board of Trustees' ad hoc special committee on Sept. 23, during which K-SWOC steering committee members explained their request for recognition.

K-SWOC has received majority support from student workers, and, if the College approves their request for a card-check neutrality agreement, they could begin contract negotiations as soon as the beginning of next year.

The Nov. 12 meeting took place nearly a month before the end of the semester, when the Board of Trustees says it will release their final decision on whether to recognize the group as a union. If the College formally recognizes K-SWOC, it will become the first comprehensive, undergraduate union in the country.

Members of K-SWOC expected the Nov. 12 meeting to be a dialogue between them and the ad hoc committee where they could negotiate as equal parties. Instead, the Board of Trustees simply asked K-SWOC members to provide them with information about the union, a format which, to K-SWOC members, felt counterproductive.

"They only wanted to hear more information from us and it had been months since we last met," said Nick Becker '22, a member of K-SWOC's



ALEX GILKEY

steering committee.

Brackett Denniston, Board chair and member of the special committee, has not yet responded to the *Collegian's* request for comment on the Nov. 12 meeting. However, he noted in an email to the *Collegian* last week that "K-SWOC students asked for another opportunity to present information to the committee, and we agreed to meet and listen."

In addition to the ad hoc committee, President Sean Decatur has charged Campus Senate with reviewing student employment policies. K-SWOC members have claimed that the legislative body had been soliciting grievances from employees with the promise of future benefits, which is prohibited by the National Labor Relations Act. Decatur has denied these claims, stating that the Senate does not have the authority to make such decisions. Nevertheless, the *Collegian* acquired contract negotiations from this summer that suggested Decatur was aware of efforts to create a student union when he ordered the Senate review.

In addition, a recent email to Decatur, K-SWOC said that student employee supervisors and senior staff members have told workers that they will not respond to demands until the Campus Senate has completed its investiga-

tion into student employment policies. As part of their employment review, the Senate sent out a survey last week to student workers asking what student employees were seeking from their employers and if employment expectations have been met.

This sequence of events has raised questions regarding the College's transparency on its efforts to review student employment procedures. K-SWOC members have expressed concerns about the Board committee's operations. When the K-SWOC members asked for more information about the ad hoc committee's research during the Nov. 12 meeting, they were met with opposition.

"I asked twice about the research that has been conducted thus far, not even what the results of their research was," said Alasia Destine-DeFreece '21, another K-SWOC steering committee member. "We explained that it was really difficult for us to give them any new information when they haven't given us anything. And unfortunately, that was seen as trying to debate, when in reality we were trying to understand what page everyone was on."

In the same email to the *Collegian* from last week, Denniston explained that the College formed the ad hoc

committee in order to review the ways that Kenyon provides financial support for its students before making a final decision on union recognition. He did not elaborate on the specifics of what that entailed, but noted that the committee had collected input from various sources.

After asking the ad hoc committee for an update or an opinion on their decision, K-SWOC members said they were met with silence. "[The ad hoc committee] said they've been collecting information, but they haven't made an opinion yet," Becker noted.

The status of work-study employees has also raised concerns among students in light of the ongoing pandemic. K-SWOC has submitted a petition to Decatur demanding that the work-study employees retain employment in the event that the spring semester is moved online. Decatur has yet to respond to the petition, which has racked up 200 signatures.

For now, the K-SWOC members are awaiting the ad hoc committee's final decision, which the Board of Trustees will vote on. K-SWOC hopes that, by the end of the semester, their request for a card-check agreement will be approved and that they will be able to become a recognized union.

Ohio Court of Claims orders state to disclose hospital data

HUIJUN MAO
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 10, the Ohio Court of Claims ruled that the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) must publicize hospital data about the availability of beds and medical resources, according to *Court News Ohio*.

Eye on Ohio, a nonprofit, nonpartisan Ohio organization for investigative journalism, first requested these public records at the end of March. They asked for the information to be made accessible from a database called Surgenet, which ODH controlled.

The ODH denied the re-

quest in April, claiming that foreign terrorists might use the records to attack the American healthcare infrastructure. It described the Surgenet system as "a tool to be utilized during an emergency involving the public's health which could severely impact hospital services." Eye on Ohio then filed a lawsuit with the Ohio Court of Claims to obtain the records.

This lawsuit is intended to help Ohioans better prepare for COVID-19 by providing more complete and up-to-date information on local hospitals and public health guidelines. With a well-rounded knowledge about the precarious circumstances in hospitals, Eye on

Ohio hopes that people will be more willing to take preventive measures and avoid risky behaviors.

With winter just around the corner and more people socializing indoors, the risk of infection will likely increase, which health experts believe will cause COVID-19 cases to continue rising. Accordingly, hospitalizations are at an all-time high nationwide, and Knox County is no exception. Over the last few weeks, COVID-19-related hospitalizations quadrupled in the county, with four back in late October and 18 as of Nov. 18.

While data about availability of beds and medical re-

sources was certainly needed in March, it is all the more imperative to have this information now, Knox Community Hospital CEO Bruce White said.

"We're watching our numbers and trying to project, 'What's it gonna be like three days from now? Are we going to have the beds? Are we going to have to start deferring in-patients elsewhere?'" he told Knox Pages.

After reviewing the case, Ohio Court of Claims Special Master Jeff Clark wrote in an October report that the Surgenet system does not use the daily hospital bed records to address security risks or acts of terrorism. On Nov. 10, the Court of

Claims approved the Special Master's report and recommendation, promising Eye on Ohio the information they sought.

Though it has already won the case, Eye on Ohio is still waiting for the records from ODH, which says its staff are working to gather the data while simultaneously coordinating its COVID-19 response, according to attorney Socrates Tuch.

Rebekah Crawford, a professor at Ohio University's College of Health and Sciences Profession, emphasized the necessity of having this data available to the public. "In times of crisis, transparency is paramount," she told Eye on Ohio.

Avoiding the Peirce seal: the mystery behind the superstition

WILLIAM GERHARDINGER
STAFF WRITER

Most Kenyon students agree that stepping on the College seal in the entrance to Peirce Dining Hall is bad, but the tradition surrounding the seal is clouded in muddy waters. Not everyone agrees on why it should be avoided or what fate faces those who forego the warning, and, while some dismiss the superstition, the tradition is real for many.

The seal embedded in the floor of what is officially Philander Chase Tower has been there since 1929, but only recently have students started to avoid walking on it. “Generations of students walked ‘blithely’ over the seal prior to the birth of the various legends about dire consequences for doing the same,” College Historian and Keeper of Kenyoniana Thomas Stamp ’73 wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Kenyon’s seal is not the only college seal steeped in superstition; many institutions have a stigma around stepping on their seal, including University of Chicago and even Denison University. However, the consequences of overstepping vary. While Denison’s tradition holds that students who walk on their seal will not graduate, those in Chicago may only fail to do so in four years; as UChicago’s website states, “there’s always a chance



Kenyon students generally avoid stepping on the seal. | SARA HALEBLIAN

that means you’ll graduate in three.”

Just as these institutions’ traditions lack a consensus on the consequences of seal-stepping, Kenyon’s students are similarly polarized on the

topic. According to a survey conducted by the *Collegian*, 23 out of 48 mostly underclass students said that stepping on the seal would result in not graduating whatsoever, while 16 believed the consequence

would be graduating late. Five students were unsure of what would happen and the remaining four had a variety of answers: general bad luck, failing one’s next exam, failing a class or sleeping through exams.

Although a *Collegian* article from August 2017 states the tradition is “one of Kenyon’s newest,” its origin is still unknown. A minority of students said that they heard the tradition from their peers, but most students said they learned of the tradition while taking a campus tour as prospective students.

“Our tour guides are trained about Kenyon ‘lore,’ including not stepping on the seal,” Ellen Turner, senior associate director from the Office of Admissions, said in an email to the *Collegian*. “Some [tour guides] see it as a sign of respect and some see it as a tradition,” Turner added. Indeed, while 28 students said they avoid treading on the seal because of the tradition, six students said they avoid doing so out of respect or to keep it clean.

First-year student Molly Orr noticed an additional benefit of the seal’s tradition: traffic control. She pointed out that the seal may act like a traffic lane: Students entering Peirce going around the seal one way would not be held up by those leaving around the other side. Although, this is only effective if students always go around the same way. “It does keep the seal clean, so either way the superstition serves a practical purpose,” Orr said.

While the debate surrounding the tradition is ongoing, it looks like the seal’s lore is here to stay.

Kenyon alumna Lizzie Fletcher ’97 reelected for Congress

THERESA CARR
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 3, 2020, the 7th Congressional District of Texas reelected Kenyon alumna Lizzie Pannill Fletcher ’97 for a second term in the United States House of Representatives. Fletcher is the only Kenyon alumna currently occupying a seat in Congress, and she is the first to hold one since Zachary Space ’83 lost his seat as a representative of Ohio’s Congressional District 18 in 2011.

Fletcher, a Democrat, won 50.76% of the vote on Nov. 3, enough to successfully defend her seat against Republican challenger Wesley Hunt, who received 47.47%. With a margin of victory of just over 3%, Fletcher won reelection with a narrower lead than in her initial race, when she defeated Republican incumbent John Culberson with a 5% margin. Texas’s 7th Congressional District, which consists of western Houston and the surrounding suburbs, had consistently elected Republicans. When Fletcher won in 2018, it was the first time that a Democrat held the seat since George H.W. Bush assumed the office in 1967.

The 2020 race also marked an increase in voter turnout in the district compared to 2018. According to the Texas Secretary

of State, 67,000 more people voted in the 2020 race for the 7th Congressional seat than in the 2018 race for the same seat.

Collegian archives show that Fletcher was an active participant in student government as sophomore class president, a member of her senior class committee and chair of the Food Service subcommittee of the Committee on Student Affairs. In 1997, Fletcher graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in History with highest honors and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Fletcher was also a nominee for the E. Malcolm Anderson Cup, an honor awarded annually to a student in the graduating class who faculty, staff and students feel has made the most impact on Kenyon.

After graduating from Kenyon, Fletcher studied at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary, where she became the editor-in-chief of the *William & Mary Law Review*, according to her Congressional biography. Fletcher then returned to Houston to practice law, eventually becoming the first female partner at AZA Law Firm.

Since arriving in Washington D.C. in 2019, Fletcher’s activity in Congress has reflected her district’s priorities and her committee membership: Fletcher currently serves on the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and chairs the Energy subcommittee. She also serves on the Committee on Transportation and

Infrastructure, and vice-chairs the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management subcommittee.

Fletcher has primarily co-sponsored bills that pertain to climate and infrastructure. Exemplifying this focus, Fletcher co-sponsored the Fossil Energy Research and Development Act of 2019, which would have expanded funding for clean energy research into carbon capturing. She also introduced the Bipartisan Disaster Recovery Funding Act, which would have advanced the distribution of disaster relief funds after Hurricane Harvey hit Houston. As a representative of a state that produces 41.4% of the United States’ crude oil, she has advanced legislation that supports domestic oil production. She is a member of the Oil and Gas Caucus and recently introduced legislation that would fund government purchases of oil and cushion revenue losses in the wake of the pandemic.

The congresswoman’s office published an annual report highlighting the bipartisan character of Fletcher’s time in office, noting that 77% of the bills she co-sponsored were bipartisan and 97% of the bills she voted for had support from members of both major parties.

Bipartisanship became a centerpiece of her recent campaign. “I’m proud to take our Houston values to Washington:



Lizzie Fletcher | VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

to make sure energy jobs were included in the [Paycheck Protection] program, to pass a bill to lower the cost of prescriptions, to make possible a billion-dollar project at the Port of Houston by working with both parties,” Fletcher said in an August advertisement. This message evidently resonated with Houston voters in 2020.

PPGA sponsors drive for New Directions Women’s Shelter

ADAM MARGOLIS
STAFF WRITER

Amid the pandemic, the Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA) student organization has implemented various new and ongoing projects both on campus and in the greater Knox County community. Currently, PPGA is running a clothing and donation drive for the New Directions Women’s Shelter in Mount Vernon, which supports women who are victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

PPGA leaders Ruby Schiff ’21, Molly Keen ’21, Sarah Ganz ’23 and Caroline Gill ’23 hope that the clothing drive will be able to provide the women at the shelter with clothing and linens that they need including underwear, socks and pillowcases. Schiff said. PPGA has set up a box in Peirce Dining Hall to collect those items. The drive will end on Nov. 20.

Due to restrictions on mobility both at Kenyon and within Knox County, the group has moved the campaign online as well by collecting Venmo donations. PPGA has used these funds to order the items online and deliver them to New Directions. “Making it accessible while still helping the community was our goal,” Keen said.

PPGA, which has been having its meetings on Zoom this semester, has been relying on social media posts and emails to get the word out. The group has enlisted its steady cohort of first-year volunteers to help with marketing the campaign through the creation of graphics and flyers.

Along with the clothing drive, PPGA has also continued to work on an initiative it started last fall to provide students with free menstrual products. At this time last year, PPGA petitioned the



Donation boxes will be sent to New Directions Women’s Shelter in Mount Vernon. | SARA HALEBLIAN

school for free period products to be made available on campus. PPGA partnered with a company called Aunt Flow, which works with colleges to provide dispensers for pads and tampons. Since the beginning of that initiative, six dispens-

ers have been installed in various bathrooms around campus, in places such as the Lowry Center, Gund Commons and Peirce Dining Hall. PPGA is working to secure more funding for more supplies and additional dispensers.

Overall, despite the challenges that the pandemic has presented, the PPGA leaders are excited to continue their work next semester and hope to further advance reproductive rights and “menstrual equity” both on campus and elsewhere.

CLASS CLASH					
Compiled by Henry Hirschfeld					
		Senior Class Total: 19	Junior Class Total: 14	Sophomore Class Total: 21	First-Year Class Total: 16
	Answer	Cortney Johnson '21	Coco Liu '22	Noah Magill '23	Pritish Das '24
How many students attend Mount Vernon High School?	1,124 students (± 300)	1,240	1,500	1,756	400
In what state was Philander Chase born?	New Hampshire	Pennsylvania	New Hampshire	Maryland	Ohio
Name one of the three countries that the most international first-year students are from.	China, Pakistan, Vietnam	China	China	China	England
Name one of the counties that border Knox County.	Richland, Ashland, Holmes, Coshocton, Licking, Delaware, Morrow	Licking County	Cuyahoga County	Lake County	Licking County
Weekly Scores		3	2	1	1

Sidney Gish impresses Horn @ Home with unique sound

MIKAYLA CONNOLLY
ARTS EDITOR

On Saturday, Oct. 31, the Horn Gallery presented a virtual performance by singer-songwriter Sidney Gish. The show comes as part of the Horn Gallery's alternative to in-person concerts, the Horn @ Home series, which allows students to view virtual concerts from anywhere in the world at any time. The Horn @ Home series has featured a variety of popular artists, including indie-pop band Beach Bunny and multi-genre artist Caroline Polachek.

A New Jersey native who now primarily resides in Boston, Gish is a self-produced, alternative pop musician whose music showcases a unique narrative style. She was nominated as one of NPR's 2018 New Artists To Watch and has garnered over two million streams on Spotify.

At the age of 23, Gish already has an accomplished musical career. She has put out two albums, *Ed Buys Houses* and *No Dogs Allowed*, the latter of which won Album Of The Year at the 2018 Boston Music Awards. She also received five-star reviews from music critic publications *The Fader*, *Stereogum* and *Pitchfork*, and other music critics have compared Gish's sound to the likes of Fiona Apple and Ingrid Michaelson. Gish has also attracted the attention of popular music artists: Two years ago, at just 21 years old, the singer opened for Mitski on tour and secured opening slots for indie-alternative bands Petals and Camp Cope soon after.

Gish opened her set with a performance of her song "I Eat Salads Now," in which three different video angles of the singer appeared on screen, overlaid on a background of stock images of people eating salads. These angles depicted her lead vocals, backing vocals and guitar, mimicking a band on stage. The set also included Gish's song "Imposter Syndrome," in which the artist used the background of a "confused dog" to go along with the song's lyrics, as well as "Persephone," in which Gish sang in front of a pomegranate backdrop. The entire set featured other humorous visual effects, like enlarging the singer's head or tilting the screen upside down.

Touring is a crucial part of Gish's career, and she noted that a lot of the fun and beautiful experiences she's had have been on tour. "Now that there's no more touring [due to COVID-19], I'm thrilled that I was able to perform a digital set at Kenyon," she said during her Horn @ Home performance "This is the first one that I've made in this way, so it was really fun and exciting to put together a set [with] ... different constraints than real life."

As demonstrated in her recent performance, Gish's music com-

bines humorous yet poetic lyrics with indie-pop instrumentals to create a unique and original sound. Popular songs of hers include "I'm Filled With Steak, And Cannot Dance," and "Rat of the City." In another song, "Presumably Dead Arm," she sings, "my brain's a toddler roller skating down a hill" and "I'm in love with strangers who I've never even seen, in love with weird cut bangs and sweaters swaying."

Gish noted that many of her songs take form through experimenting and playing with music production. "A lot of times I'll come up with something while I'm recording it and do a few takes of different ideas and clump [them] together — just really winging it and seeing what sounds like more fun than something else." Gish said that she wrote "Presumably Dead Arm" mainly in her phone notes when she was "being dramatic," and that the song is just "a bunch of emo vibes [from] when I was 19." Gish also said a lot of her inspiration comes from other alternative artists, especially avant-pop musician Jack Stauber.

A recent graduate of Northeastern University, Gish has balanced her music career with her studies over the past few years.

The singer was able to practice mixing and recording skills as part of her minor in music recording. "Whenever I would sit down and do the bulk of the recording, it would be [during] a winter break when I was home from school," she said during an interview with the *Collegian*. "I would think of the ideas at school and work on them there, and then once I got home I would just really drill myself in recording." Gish said she would try to perform in shows on the weekends during the school year, but scheduled most shows for the summer so as to avoid conflicts with classes. "The past year or so I've been getting better at recording gradually instead of just doing it all in two days, so it's pretty fun to see what I can do," she said.

Before putting out her second album, *No Dogs Allowed*, Gish was booking her own shows locally around New England until she got a spike in popularity through Spotify's algorithm, which allowed her to find an agent. According to Gish, that's when her career really began taking off. "It was that spike that made me get emails that made me hire an agent, and that's how I went on all those

tours," she said. "That's how I played Kenyon."

Gish is taking a break from making music now that she's not on the road consistently and has graduated from college. "It's sad that there's no more shows anymore because the social aspect and the creative aspect are one in the same," Gish said. "But, I know

now if I record a song I don't have to play it live anymore for the time being."

Gish's performance is archived and free to watch at hornathome.com, as are the other previous fall 2020 performances. Her two albums are available on most streaming platforms, including Spotify and Bandcamp.



Horn @ Home promotional poster | COURTESY OF SAMARA HANDELSMAN



Sidney Gish performing live. | COURTESY OF SIDNEY GISH VIA FACEBOOK.

Advanced Poetry class hosts portfolio reading over Zoom

FREDRIKE GIRON-GIESSEN
ARTS EDITOR

On Nov. 13, the students of Advanced Poetry (ENGL 301) held a Zoom poetry reading co-sponsored by Sunset Press. It featured work by nine writers across class years. The poets put their “blood, sweat and many tears” into this work, according to the Student-Info email advertising the event.

Advanced Poetry is taught by Assistant Professor of English Andrew Grace ’04. Grace introduced the class as one of the best groups he has ever worked with. “It is an incredibly talented group, and their talents are as various as they are deep,” Grace said.

The reading was assembled by Armiya “A.” Shaikh ’21, one of the event’s readers and co-founder of the Sunset Press. Without being able to see the faces of fellow viewers and react visually, audience members turned to the Zoom chat feature. The chat erupted with compliments as each reader began their oration: “Amazing!!!!” wrote Shaikh in response to Lindstrom’s reading. “Your voice is like a song I’m literally in tears,” another viewer commented during Shaikh’s.

The chat created a comfortable, collaborative atmosphere for people to share their thoughts during the reading. Normally the reading takes place in the Cheever Room of

Finn House, and it can be difficult to recreate the classic atmosphere of the room online.

“Reading poems on a Zoom webinar is bizarre because you have so few ways to sense the energy in the room or gauge your audience’s reactions as you present your poems,” Virginia Kane ’22 wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. “You can’t see people nod or hear them laugh like you would at an in-person reading, so you just have to be confident in your delivery and trust that your words are resonating on distant screens.”

As Grace mentioned in his introduction of the class, the pieces varied in topic, all of them tackling a part of their writer’s personal life as well as

political and social dilemmas.

Lin, who was the first to read, has focused on the immigrant experience as well as “making connections across generations of family” over the course of the semester, Grace said.

In her poem “Loving Miss Daisy,” Aaliyah C. Daniels ’23 recited, “I once had a white woman collect my saliva just so she can collect my next metaphor.”

Later on, Sarah Pazen ’22 performed a resonant and solemn piece about gun violence called “My Mom Moved My Brother To The Suburbs Because The Schools At Home Are Unsafe.”

Subsequently, Mikayla Con-

nolly ’23 read three poems, one of which is titled “Watching PEN15 In An Empty Dorm Room In Ohio.”

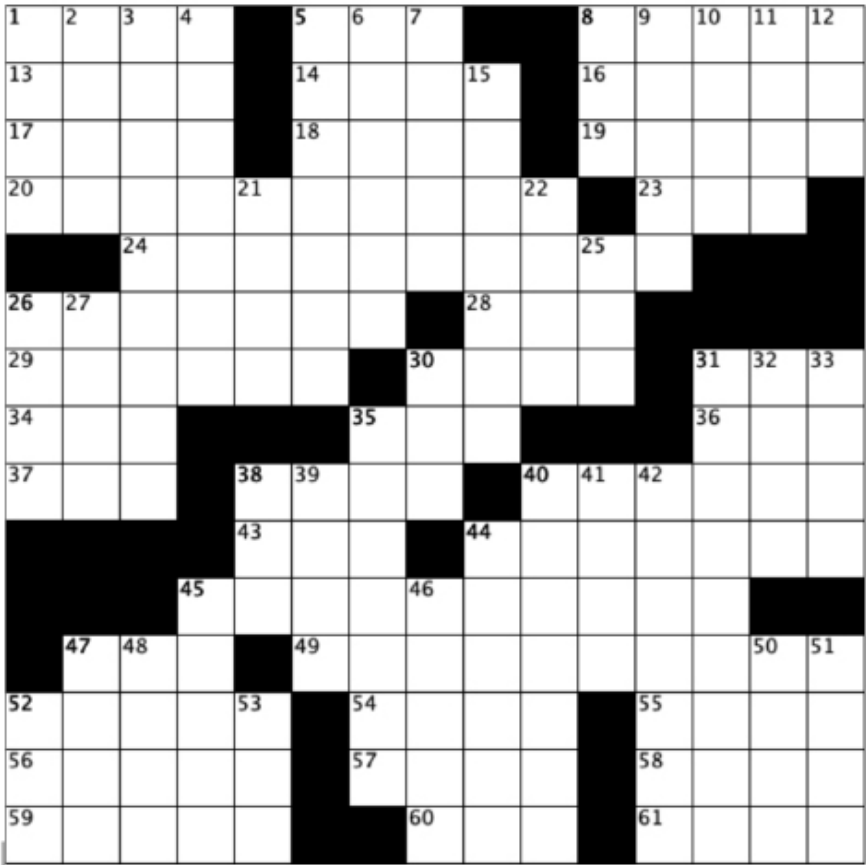
Shaikh wrapped up the reading with her poem, which she described as one that examines “immigration, memory, and the body, and how it can hold pain.”

As virtual readings become the new normal, the captivating work of the Advanced Poetry students made up for the lack of an in-person audience and physical performance space. The work is deeply personal, so it was symbolic for the writers to read the poetry looking at themselves, reflecting on their own identity within the poem.

REILLY WIELAND
CROSSWORD EDITOR

ETHAN BONNELL
CONTRIBUTOR

CROSSWORD



Nov. 12 Crossword Solutions

H	T	T	P		A	N	G	E	R	S		I	R	A
A	R	E	A		T	E	A	R	U	P		N	O	D
H	E	A	R	T	H	S	T	O	N	E		C	U	D
A	E	S	T	H	E	T	E	S		W	R	I	T	E
					E	N	E			N	E	E	D	E
L	A	B			C	A	R	T	H	O	R	S	E	
A	R	E	N	A			R	E	B		I	N	N	S
R	I	S	E		S	E	E	M	S		S	T	O	P
D	A	T	A		E	R	A			S	T	A	T	A
				F	R	I	A	R	T	U	C	K		L
A	R	R	E	S	T			P	H	I				
C	A	I	R	O		A	P	H	A	N	I	T	I	C
U	K	E			G	A	R	T	E	R	S	N	A	K
T	E	N			O	N	E	A	R	T		O	M	E
E	D	D			N	A	S	H	E	S		N	E	A

- Across
- 1 Bills in a bar
- 5 Bond’s Aston Martin model in *Casino Royale*
- 8 What most Americans do on Thanksgiving
- 13 Year or yard, for example
- 14 Location referenced in Phoebe Bridgers’ 2017 album
- 16 Use a bike for a recurrent series
- 17 Word after “dial” or “muscle”
- 18 Stern deck
- 19 Credited in a bibliography
- 20 Like a southpaw boxer or walking through campus east to west
- 23 State of Sydney, Aus.
- 24 Strolling idly
- 26 Division that creates life
- 28 Hermana de mama
- 29 State that might be baked?
- 30 Blood’s road back to the heart
- 31 Word after smart or kick
- 34 Digital interface, briefly
- 35 Mouse accessory
- 36 Do nothing: wu ____
- 37 Noviembre, por ejemplo
- 38 Damaged like a muscle
- 40 Climb every mountain
- 43 “It’s ____ from me” (Simon Cowell catchphrase)
- 44 “Touche” elicitor
- 45 Neutralize
- 47 Freudian concept, or a villain from *Ratatouille*
- 49 An unfortunate Kenyon parking spot
- 52 *Channel Orange* musician Frank _____
- 54 Pearly mussel
- 55 “My Chick Bad” rapper, familiarly
- 56 “It’s not a _____, mom!”
- 57 She sneezes in Amsterdam
- 58 Heart charts, briefly
- 59 Multiple servings of the Market’s Sunday soup
- 60 Techy stem field: abbr.
- 61 Jamacian fruit tree

- Down
- 1 Nobel Prize-winning Archbishop of Capetown Desmond
- 2 Frequent forum poster, for short
- 3 (x + y) and (x - y), for example
- 4 Record holders?
- 5 Freshwater crustacean named for Apollo’s laurel tree
- 6 Crips’ rivals
- 7 Big name in china
- 8 Ajit Pai’s agency
- 9 On watch
- 10 Plays one’s role
- 11 Killed, as in a dragon
- 12 JFK brother, or JFK speechwriter
- 15 Donned
- 21 Big to-do?
- 22 What the clocks strike at the start of 1984
- 25 British grandma
- 26 Term of palindromic politeness “or_____”
- 27 “or_____”
- 30 Camper, e.g.
- 31 Floored
- 32 Mailed
- 33 Fries or a salad, e.g
- 35 What “you” and “I” are
- 38 This is the way
- 39 “The _____ is on you”
- 40 Cause of inflation?
- 41 Reason you might sleep on a couch
- 42 Spiraly part of the inner ear
- 44 Deals with loose laces
- 45 Move easily by the seaside?
- 46 Caesar’s dressing?
- 47 Cavern sound effect
- 48 Tools of a trade
- 50 On _____ (anxious)
- 51 Go gentle (into/up)
- 52 Choose
- 53 Platform for early “Zelda” games, for short

Did you finish this crossword? Email a photo of your completed crossword to crossword@kenyoncollegian.com.

You can also complete this crossword online at kenyoncollegian.com/section/opinion.

STAFF EDITORIAL

To weather the pandemic, the community must come together

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced on Tuesday that a statewide curfew would take effect Thursday, and extend for the next three weeks. This new COVID-19 policy comes after cases in Ohio have tripled in the last few weeks and a warning from DeWine last week that colleges and universities in the state may need to cancel in-person operations this spring if cases in Ohio continue to increase exponentially.

Although we appreciate the governor's efforts to curb the spread of the virus, we believe these policies alone are not enough. COVID-19 policy is more crucial than individual behavior, but when the policy falls short we must turn to each other for guidance. It is up to members of individual communities — including students and faculty on university campuses — to do their part in ensuring public safety.

Up until now, the number of positive cases on Kenyon's campus has been very low, and that is no doubt due — at least in part — to our community's commitment to keeping each other safe. But maintaining public health during a pandemic is about more than social distancing and wearing a face covering. It is also about protecting each other's mental health by trying extra hard to do the things we have always done: being kind to one another and giving each other the benefit of the doubt whenever possible.

Because of the exceptional circumstances posed by the virus, COVID-19 has isolated many of us from our friends, leaving us lonely and without our usual support structures in a time when we need it most. As much as the world feels like a lonely place right now, we shouldn't let COVID-19 deter us from coming together as a community. This can be accomplished through even the smallest acts of compassion, like calling your first-year roommate or sincerely asking your professors how they are doing.

A supportive community is also an effective deterrent to those tempted to break COVID-19 rules. One of the most difficult aspects of living through a pandemic is that we are expected to remain physically distant from our friends and socialize in person less frequently. This is even more difficult in a close-knit community like Kenyon's. However, if we are proactive about offering each other the support we need, students will feel less tempted to break protocol by attending unsafe gatherings.

Kenyon is unique among its peer, liberal arts institutions in that its remote location fosters a tight-knit sense of community. If there is one community strong enough to weather the storm that is COVID-19, it is Kenyon's. If the community is going to get through this difficult time — both the last week of the in-person semester and the pandemic as a whole — it will be by working together to support one another.

The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Mae Hunt '21 and Evey Weisblat '21, managing editor Sophie Krichevsky '21 and executive director Elizabeth Stanley '21. You can contact them at hunt1@kenyon.edu, weisblat1@kenyon.edu, krichevsky1@kenyon.edu and stanley2@kenyon.edu, respectively.

WEEKLY COLUMN

We are far from a post-racist society

AALIYAH C. DANIELS
COLUMNIST

The death of Quawan "Bobby" Charles, a 15-year-old Black boy from Louisiana, is being compared to the lynching of Emmett Till by the media. The Washington Post reported that, at the sight of his body, Bobby's mom, Roxanne Nelson, ran "from a viewing room screaming in horror at the sight of her son's mutilated face." While police declared drowning as the cause of death due to water found in his lungs, the family denied that, citing the physical evidence of the horrific injuries to his face and body.

In order to get justice for her son, Roxanne Nelson, like Mamie Till, released a picture of her son's mangled body to the public. Although the deaths of Bobby and Emmett Till were over 50 years apart, their chilling similarities reveal a greater truth about the state of our country. It is in moments like this when history reflects itself so clearly that I realize the fight for racial equality in America has been plateauing for longer than most Americans like to admit.

Some say that because we had a Black president, that must be evidence that our society is past its racist history but the immediate response to Barack Obama was Donald J. Trump. Trump has a history of racist remarks towards minorities, and his election in 2016 was called an "inevitable backlash to the Obama presidency." If American racist ideologies were diminishing instead of hiding in plain sight, there would be no impetus for a "backlash" against the previous Black president.

The Civil Rights Movement has been taught in black and white images, giving a skewed version of how recent the movement actually was. When racism today is compared to the racism combated by historical figures such as MLK and Malcolm X, it is dismissed because it's not as "in your face" or as unapologetic as it used to be. If Americans are taught to celebrate the Civil Rights Movement with memorials such as MLK Day, then it is hard for most Americans to believe that we are facing the same issues today, as memorials or celebrative holidays indoctrinate these issues as things of the past. However, the truth is that there are many people from that time period still alive today, such as Ruby Bridges — and many of the same issues, such as segregation in schools, are as well. While we can celebrate how far we have come, we cannot forget that we are still mid-war.

It is a shame that the Black community has had to make the same sacrifice that Mamie Till did in 1955 by exposing the brutal murder of her son, in order for people to empathize or believe that we are dying. It is appalling that the police would ignore the physical evidence of Bobby's injuries the same way a court ignored Emmett Till's murder in favor of a lie. The continued blind eye society has turned on the abuse and murder of Black bodies can only be described as a testament to this country's approval of the death of Black people. It is nauseating.

The fight for racial equality was always going to be an uphill battle, but we have been fighting in place. Most of our enemies were hidden until Trump gave them the confidence to come out from the shadows. In spite of Trump's loss in the presidential election, we must ask ourselves: How will we progress? We as Americans cannot continue to promote a political system where we push those against social progress to the sidelines and hope one day they will join us; that will keep America reliant on moderate candidates during future elections that will not promote the radical change needed in our society.

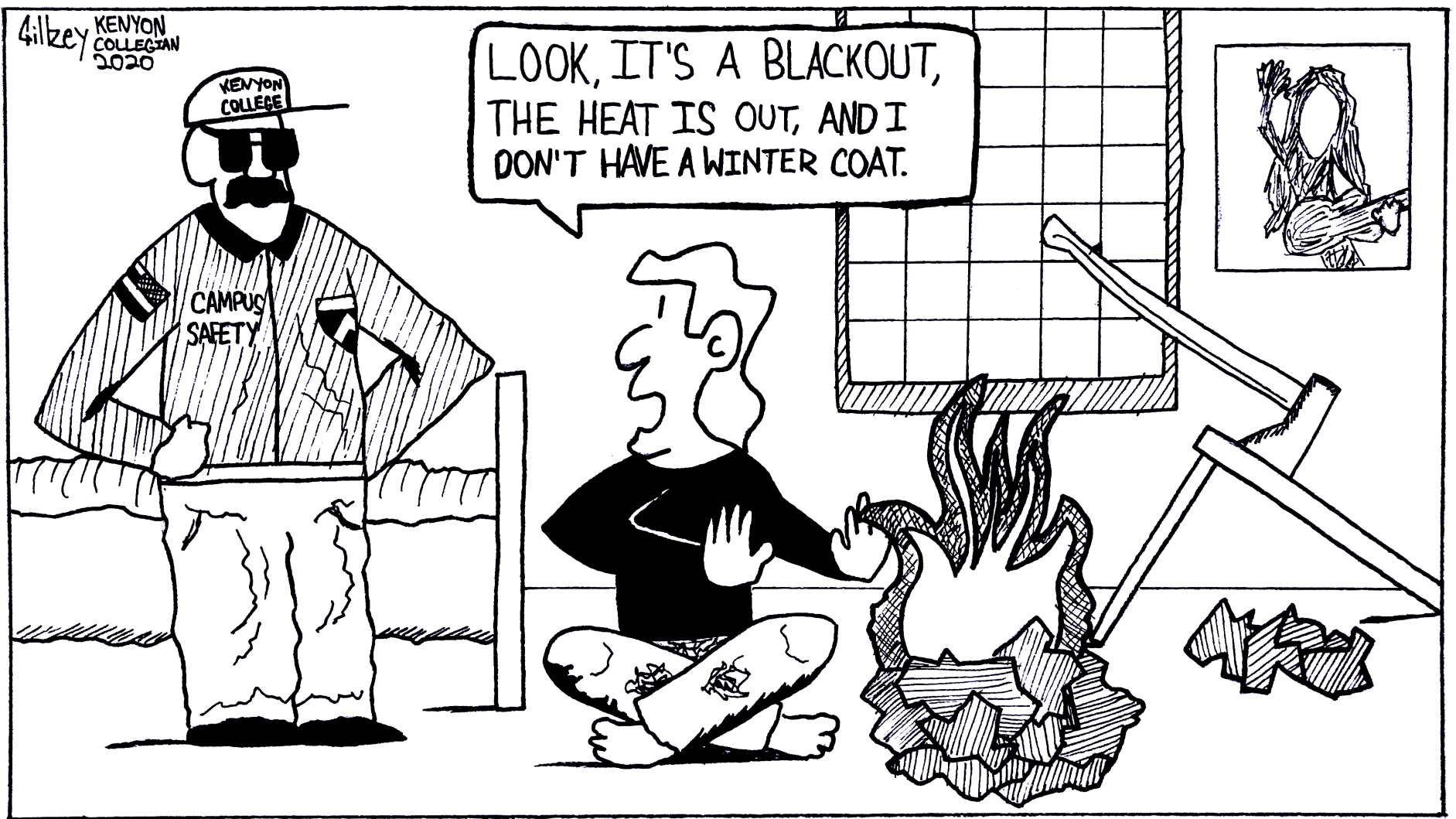
The American public can no longer wait for a leader to guide us to sustainable progress. Our growth from the ugliness that birthed this country does not start or end with a president, but with education, conversation and an honest examination of where our society must improve. We cannot promote this nation as the land of the free when we have the highest incarceration rate in the world and have normalized police brutality, the killing of immigrant children and dividing Americans based on social identifiers and politics.

It took Mamie Till releasing the image of her son's mangled face for the Civil Rights Movement to really begin. It took a viral video of George Floyd's horrific death for the discussion of racism in America to begin again. It took the public seeing Bobby's body for the police to take his death seriously. When will we stop waiting for evidence of an innocent life taken before we realize that America is nowhere near becoming a post-racist society? This year is one that has shown Americans how racism-riddled the American body is. We must educate ourselves before it is too late.

Aaliyah C. Daniels is an English major with an emphasis in creative writing and a philosophy minor with a concreation in law and society, from Bronx, N.Y. You can contact her at daniels2@kenyon.edu.

The opinions page is a space for members of the community to discuss issues relevant to the campus and the world at large. The opinions expressed on this page belong only to the writers. Columns and letters to the editors do not reflect the opinions of the *Collegian* staff. All members of the community are welcome to express opinions through a letter to the editor.

The *Kenyon Collegian* reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. The *Collegian* cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or fewer. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. The *Kenyon Collegian* prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness. Members of the editorial board reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the paper do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.



ALEX GILKEY

Board of Trustees meetings must be open to community

SAM HAFETZ
CONTRIBUTOR

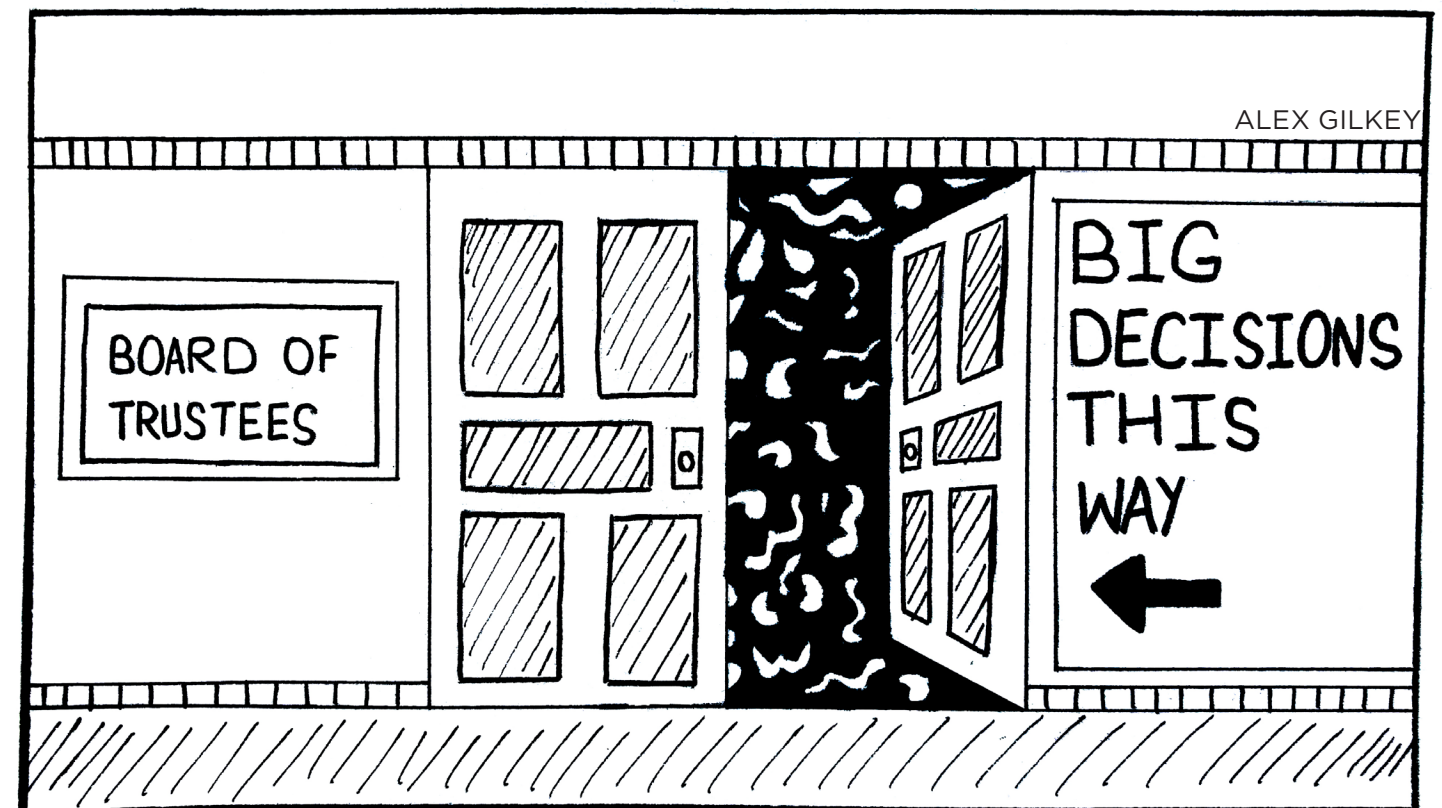
AVA GRUSKOFF
CONTRIBUTOR

At the top of most institutional hierarchies, including Kenyon's, sits a group of powerful people that do not work for the institution: the Board of Trustees. Our only insight into its decision-making process is a vague description on Kenyon's website, which provides no explanation for how its decisions are made. With the exception of President Decatur, who was hired by the Board and holds a seat on it, we'd be hard-pressed to find a Board member a student could name (unless their parents are on it).

Because of this lack of visibility and transparency, we ask that Kenyon's Board of Trustees make their meetings open to all students, staff and faculty.

Making Board of Trustees meetings public would create a more meaningful dialogue between students, faculty, staff and administrators by providing us the opportunity to understand the rationale behind the Board's decisions. We could consider the line of thinking and language behind policies that impact us, and our futures would no longer hang solely in the balance of a private Board of Trustees meeting. Given the opportunity to access these conversations, it will be easier for us to trace policy decisions back to the specific people whose membership on the Board is evidence of their investment in this institution.

Instead of keeping these meetings behind closed doors, the Kenyon community should be able to sit in on these meetings. After the meeting, the Kenyon community should have one full hour to ask questions and express fear, anger and excitement about decisions made at the meeting.



ALEX GILKEY

No one in the Kenyon community should be excluded from accessing this conversation. We need an explanation for why this institution has not invested in more mental health professionals, which has resulted in a lack of mental health services and resources for students on campus. We need an explanation for why the College chooses to accept financial donations towards the construction of buildings like the new library without consulting community members first.

COVID-19 has only exacerbated this lack of transparency. Currently, many students on campus feel like the decision to bring first years and sophomores back in the fall was made out of economic inter-

est. This assumption grew stronger when the decision to bring back more students in the spring was revealed, in spite of infection levels rising to an all time high. We cannot be sure these decisions were made solely out of economic interest, but without transparency from the Board behind this decision and others like it, our insight into the truth is blurred.

We understand that Kenyon requires an inflow of money to function and preserve itself. So be it. But if this is the rationale behind their decision-making, the Board should state it honestly, and cease its liberal posturing. It should let us see what happens in these conversations.

The Board should grant all members

of the community access to these meetings. We deserve to know how and why the Board makes policy decisions in these meetings because they impact our experience as students. Ultimately, by making these meetings public, we could hold powerful individuals accountable for the impact their investment in this institution has on its constituents, and we hope other institutions follow suit.

Sam Hafetz '23 is an English major from Brooklyn, NY. You can contact him at hafetz1@kenyon.edu. Ava Gruskoff '23 is an undeclared major from Los Angeles, Calif. You can contact her at gruskoff1@kenyon.edu.

Miami Marlins make Ng first female GM in MLB history

JORDY FEE-PLATT
SPORTS EDITOR

JOE WINT
SPORTS EDITOR

On Friday, the Miami Marlins named Kim Ng as their new general manager (GM). Ng is the first woman to hold the general manager position, both in MLB and across the four major professional sports leagues in North America. Ng is also believed to be the second person of Asian descent to lead a MLB team, alongside San Francisco Giants President of Baseball Operations Farhan Zaidi.

“I got calls and text messages from guys that I’ve known over the years who were just so excited to tell their daughters and wives,” Ng said during her press conference on Monday. “[They were] just so happy that I had broken through, but really more for the sport and more about what it meant for us in society.”

After playing softball at the University of Chicago and graduating with a degree in public policy, Ng was hired by the Chicago White Sox as an intern. She progressed through the ranks of the organization and, by 1995, she became the assistant director of baseball operations. In 1998, New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman hired Ng to be his assistant GM, making her the youngest to ever hold the position in MLB, and one of only four women to do so in the league’s history. She then joined the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2001, also as an assistant GM. Ng left the team in 2011 to become MLB’s senior vice president of baseball operations, a position which she held until last week.

During her 30 years in MLB, Ng had been interviewed for general manager positions with numerous teams, including the Dodgers, Giants and New York Mets. Experiencing so many rejections was disheartening, she told the *New York Times*, remarking that at moments, it felt as though teams only considered her in order to meet a diversity requirement. Now, Ng feels as if she will serve as a symbol of progress in gender equality in baseball. “You’re bearing a torch for so many,” Ng told the *Times*.

Women across the nation recognized Ng’s achievement with an outpouring of over 1,000 congratulatory responses within the first 72 hours of her hiring.

Andrea Nuñez, a strength and conditioning coach for the Los Angeles Angels, says the hiring was inspiring for women in baseball. “The most important thing for us is to not be hired to be a check mark,” Nuñez told *Sports Illustrated*. “For the most qualified candidate for that position to happen to be a woman and a woman who achieved so much, that is amazing. That is exactly the hire we want.”

Out of all the messages, the most meaningful for Ng was from former tennis star, Billie Jean King, one of Ng’s idols growing up in the Tri-State area.

“With 30 years’ experience as a baseball executive, she’s made history as the first woman and first Asian-American to hold the top post in a baseball operations department. Progress!” King tweeted last Friday. King, a tennis Hall of Famer, pushed her sport towards gender equality beginning in the late 1960s.

Despite this extraordinary moment in sports, King noted there is still a long way to go for women in sports. King emphasized that achievements for men and



Ng serves as an inspiration to women in sports.
| TOADBOY123 VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

women in the sports world are characterized differently by the public. When men are successful in sports, their achievements are celebrated for their level of excellence, while women’s achievements are discussed only in the context of progress towards gender equality, King noted. According to King, this attitude will remain until the hiring of a woman sparks debate about whether she was the best candidate for the job, not national celebrations over the demise of a glass ceiling. And that change, King said, is up to men.

Ng also received support from former First Lady Michelle Obama. “So excited to see Kim Ng named the first woman and first Asian-American General Manager in the MLB. I grew up loving the [Chicago] Cubs, but I’ll be cheering you on!” Obama tweeted last Friday.

Ng was excited about working with the many women in the organization who work in the team’s analytics, scouting and medical departments. The Marlins have one of the most diverse front offices in MLB. Derek Jeter became the first Black CEO when he and Bruce Sherman purchased the team in 2017. Caroline O’Connor, the team’s COO, is one of the highest-ranking female executives in professional sports.

Ng hopes that her hiring will serve as an inspiration for other women with an interest in a career in sports. “There’s an adage, ‘You can’t be it if you can’t see it,’” Ng said. “I suggest to them, ‘Now you can see it.’ And so I look forward to hearing all of their stories and just how inspired they are to now pursue a job in sports, a job in baseball and to reach for the stars.”



Marlins Park | ROBERTO COQUIS VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Lopez defeats Lomachenko in lightweight championship

JAMES MAZER
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 17, Teofimo Lopez defeated Vasily Lomachenko in the first-ever undisputed, winner-take-all lightweight championship title match in boxing history.

Heading into the fight, the 32-year-old, Ukrainian-born Lomachenko held three of the four world championship belts: the World Boxing Organization (WBO), the World Boxing Association (WBA) and

The Ring magazine lightweight champion belt. His opponent, the 23-year-old underdog Lopez, hailing from New York City, held only the International Boxing Federation (IBF) lightweight championship.

In addition to being the first ever lightweight unification fight, Lopez vs. Lomachenko was billed as an exciting matchup because the two men fought and behaved so differently in the ring. Known for landing more than half of his power punches, Lopez is a knockout artist. In 14 fights

leading up to the title belt with Lomachenko, 12 of his victories had come by way of knockout.

Lopez is a relative newcomer to the sport. On the other hand, Lomachenko, known by many as just “Loma,” has developed a reputation for himself within the sport as an incredibly gifted, technical fighter. Lomachenko fights by stepping around his opponents and using his speed and stamina to outbox them. In only 14 contests, he was able to secure three of the four title belts and

acquire 11 knockouts. Lomachenko spent years of his career fighting at the amateur level (his amateur record is the best ever at 396-1).

The title fight began uneventfully for both men, who spent the majority of the first round sizing each other up. However, Lopez was able to land a few sharp jabs, whereas Lomachenko neglected to throw a punch, appearing nervous about Lopez’s power.

Lopez continued to control the fight in the ensuing rounds. By using the jab as a defensive

tool, he was able to keep his distance from the shorter Lomachenko and prevent him from stepping inside his reach. He repeatedly threw powerful shots to Lomachenko’s body.

The momentum began to shift in the middle rounds. In the seventh round, Lomachenko appeared noticeably more aggressive, and landed a series of shots on Lopez. However, he was never in complete control of the fight, and Lopez was able to successfully retaliate a couple of times.

In the dying moments of the 12th and final round, Lopez reestablished his dominance through a series of power punches. Ultimately, Lomachenko’s late burst, while admirable, proved to be too little, too late.

The judges unanimously awarded Lopez the victory. This proved to be controversial among some, who claimed that the fight was much more closely contested than it had been scored. For example, boxing website Fightnews.com scored the fight as a much closer affair than the official judges, while HBO boxing even stated that they had the fight scored as a draw.

Ultimately, these scorings all proved inconsequential, as they had no bearing on the result of the fight. Lopez, at age 23, became not only the youngest, but also the only undisputed lightweight world champion in boxing history.



Boston sports legend Tommy Heinsohn dies at the age of 86

CALEB NEWMAN
STAFF WRITER

NBA Hall of Famer and legendary commentator for the Boston Celtics Tommy Heinsohn died at the age of 86 on Nov. 9. Heinsohn is one of four people in history to be elected into the NBA Hall of Fame as both a coach and a player, and is the only person to have been associated with 17 NBA championships.

Heinsohn was drafted from the College of Holy Cross in 1956 by the Boston Celtics, a franchise he would stay with for the rest of his life. That same year, Heinsohn beat out fellow Celtics great Bill Russell for rookie of the year. Although Russell and Heinsohn were in competition for the rookie of the year, they were teammates first and foremost. “In life there are a limited number of true friends, today I lost one,” Russell wrote on Twitter on Nov. 10.

In the nine years that Heinsohn played in the NBA, he was selected as an All-Star six times and won eight championships with the Celtics. He had 12,194 points and 5,749 rebounds

in his career. For his tremendous effort and dedication to the franchise, the Celtics retired his number 15 in 1965.

After finishing his playing career, Heinsohn became the Celtics’ head coach in 1969 and held the position until 1978. During his time as a Celtics head coach, he won two NBA championships (1974 and 1976) and was named coach of the year in 1973.

Heinsohn’s legacy was further cemented when he took on the role of color commentator in 1981 alongside play-by-play analyst Mike Gorman. The two developed a fraternal relationship that lasted nearly 40 years, perhaps the longest tenure for any duo in American sports broadcasting history. “Roughly 2800 times I sat down with Tommy to broadcast a game,” Gorman wrote on Twitter. “Every time it was special. ... Celtics Nation has lost its finest voice. Rest In Peace my friend. It has been the privilege of my professional life to be the Mike in Mike & Tommy.”

Most fans remember Heinsohn’s candidness as a broadcaster. “When a call went against Boston, Heinsohn sounded less like a suit in the broad-

casting booth and more like a fan in Section 323,” *New York Times* writer Jack Nicas said.

Broadcasters are expected to remain impartial when discussing gameplay. However, Heinsohn often ignored broadcasting norms. He would root for the Celtics and criticize the referees’ calls.

“I think there’s a lot of us that are envious, in that we wish we could call a game the way Tommy did,” said Mike Breen, ESPN’s lead NBA announcer. “[He] was himself on the air, all the time, every single night. And there’s such a beauty to that.”

Heinsohn was critical of using statistics as a tool to evaluate players’ impact on the game. He once chucked Gorman’s notes out of the broadcast booth. Instead, he came up with what he called a “Tommy Point,” which he awarded to players he believed had put in extra effort to make a play on the court.

With all the tributes pouring in, Basketball Reference updated the Tommy Heinsohn statistics page to list him as first in “Tommy Points Awarded.” That is a perfect way to sum up the extraordinary life of Tommy Heinsohn.



Tommy Heinsohn | JOHN W. HARMON VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS